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BATMAN

APPROVED
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BRUCE
WAYNE

R.I.P.

EXTRA!
A
ROBIN
SOLO-STORY,
"DEATH-
POINT!"

COLLECTOR'S
ITEM SPECIAL!
"THE
PEOPLE
VS
THE BATMAN"

52 PAGES 25¢
BIGGER AND BETTER

DC BATMAN

52 PAGES 25¢

BIGGER AND BETTER

0-2-5

BEGINNING THE MOST SENSATIONAL...
THE MOST DANGEROUS...AND CERTAINLY
THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVENTURE
IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER OF THE...

BATMAN

BRUCE WAYNE-- REST in PEACE!

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL ~ ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO ~ EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

AT THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE...



HE WAS *ONE* MILLIONAIRE WHO *USED* HIS WEALTH-- INSTEAD OF LETTING IT USE HIM!

I WONDER WHY HE DARED FLY A SMALL PLANE OVER THAT JUNGLE-- ALONE?



Editor's Note: THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS PARTICULAR STORY-- ONE OF A SERIES TO APPEAR IN FORTHCOMING ISSUES-- ACTUALLY OCCUR AFTER THE BATMAN/ BRUCE WAYNE STORIES CURRENTLY RUNNING IN DETECTIVE COMICS, JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD, WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, ETC.

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HOW WELL DID YOU KNOW BRUCE WAYNE?

SLIGHTLY! I'LL MISS HIM... I GUESS!

THEN YOU'LL ATTEND HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE AT GOTHAM CHAPEL?



I'M AFRAID NOT, COMMISSIONER! I'VE GOT BUSINESS OUT OF TOWN... OUT OF THE COUNTRY, IN FACT!

I MAY BE GONE SEVERAL MONTHS!

ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH?



I ONLY WISH YOU COULD, SIR! BUT NO... THIS IS MY TASK-- MINE ALONE!



I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I RETURN--

-- IF I RETURN.



I HATED TO LIE! IT WAS NECESSARY, THOUGH!-- NECESSARY FOR BRUCE WAYNE TO DISAPPEAR--

-- BECAUSE THE WAR I'M WAGING IS AGAINST SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WAYNE IS THE BATMAN!

AND I CAN'T CHANCE HIS STRIKING AT ME THROUGH MY CIVILIAN IDENTITY!

WHAT'S MORE, I'VE
COME TO REALIZE I'LL
NEVER BEAT HIM
ALONE... THE MOST
GALLING ADMISSION
I'VE EVER HAD
TO MAKE!

GOT TO
SWALLOW MY
PRIDE... AND
RECRUIT
HELP!

MY FIRST
RECRUIT
IS HAVING
A LATE
DINNER
AT HIS
FAVORITE
CAFE--!

I CAN
TELL... ONE
OF HIS GOONS
IS KEEPING
WATCH AT
THE DOOR!

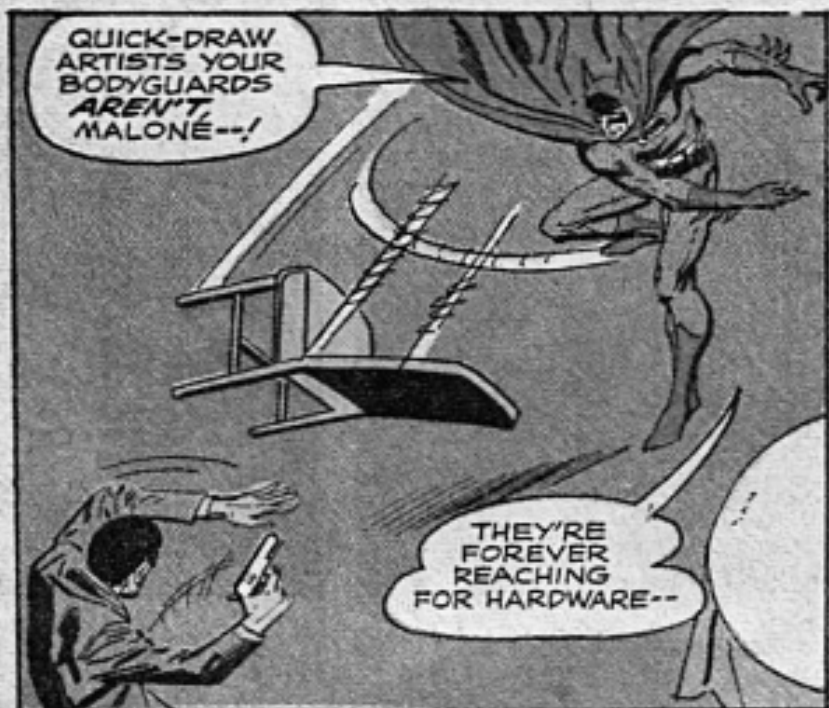
I SUSPECT
THERE WILL BE
PLENTY OF
VIOLENCE
IN THE NEXT FEW
WEEKS--

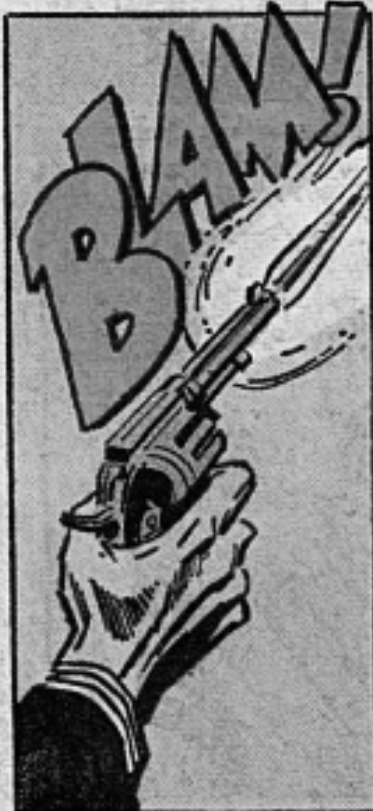
--I MAY AS
WELL BEGIN
IT NOW!

THE
BATMAN--?!

WOKKK!

K-RAWWW!





EARLY THE FOLLOWING AFTER-
NOON, AT A LARGE, MIDTOWN HOTEL--



--A SINISTER FIGURE SCANS A CROWD--

MY PIGEON SHOULD BE
PASSING THIS WAY! HE'S
THE MAIN SPEAKER AT
THE *BIOPHYSICS*
CONVENTION--

-- AND THOSE
GUYS ARE THE
CONVENTIONEERS!



THERE HE IS-- DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE!
I'D BETTER WAIT TILL HE'S ALONE
BEFORE I PUT MY PROPOSITION
TO HIM!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE
ELEVATOR... PROBABLY
GOING TO HIS ROOM!
AND SOMEBODY'S
STICKING TO HIM
LIKE GLUE--

-- MAYBE SOMEBODY
WITH THE SAME
IDEA I HAVE!



I'LL JUST DRIFT
IN WITH THEM...



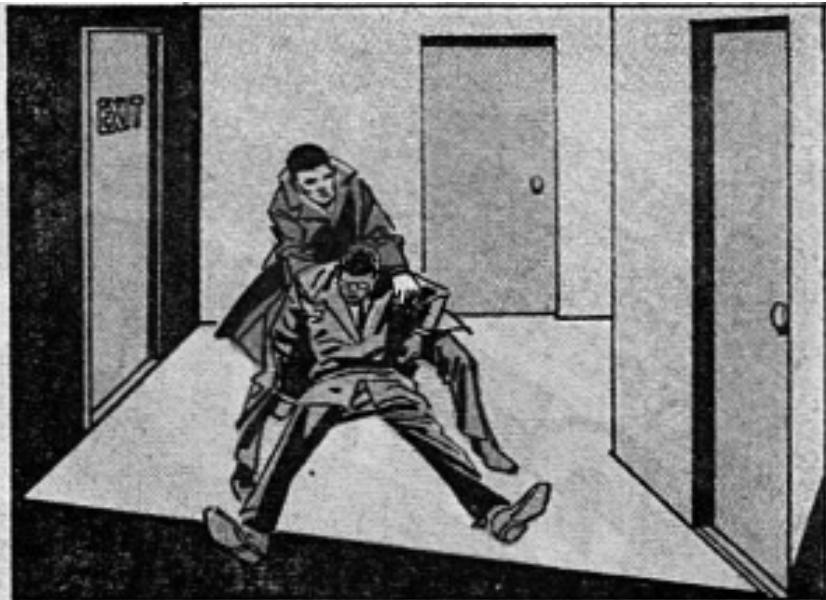
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, ON THE TWENTY-EGHTH
FLOOR...

PARDON ME, DOCTOR
BLAINE! MAY I
SPEAK WITH YOU?

WHAT
IS IT?



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING



RISE AN' SHINE, CHUM!
DRINK THE WATER--
AN' TALK TO ME!

W-WHERE
AM I?--
WHO ARE
YOU?

YOU'RE IN
A PRIVATE
SUITE--

--AN' YOU'RE
JAWIN' WITH
**MATCHES
MALONE--**
EX-HONCHO
OF THE
**WATERFRONT
MOB!**

SOME BOZO TRIED
TO PUT THE **SNATCH**
ON YOU! I COOLED
'IM... 'COUNT OF MY
LEADER WANTS
CONVERSATION
WITH YOU!

YOUR...
LEADER?

GREETINGS,
**DOCTOR HARRIS
BLAINE!**

YEAH... NAME OF
THE **BATMAN!**

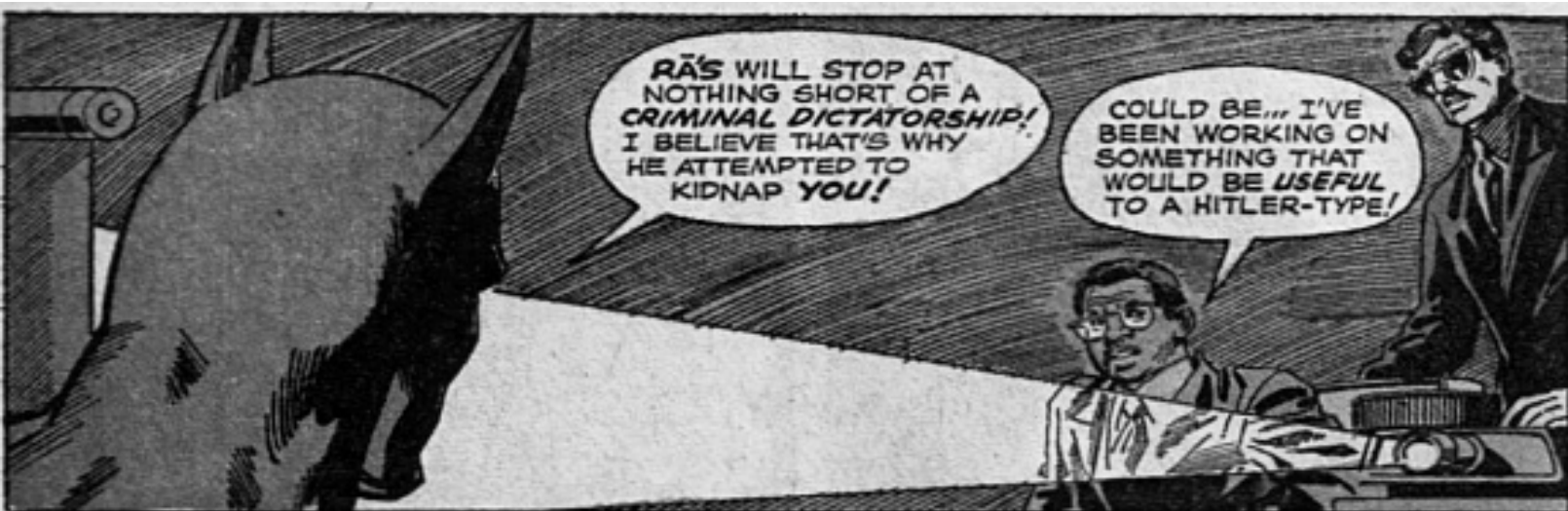
YOU'RE
DOUBTLESS
WONDERING THE
REASON I HAD YOU
BROUGHT TO ME!

THIS IS THAT REASON...
A MASTER OF **EVIL**
CALLED **RAS AL GHUL!**
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
I'VE CLASHED WITH HIM
AND HIS DAUGHTER,
TALIA...

...EACH
TIME WE
CAME TO A
STALEMATE!
I ACKNOWLEDGE
I CANNOT
DEFEAT HIM
BY **MYSELF!**

--AND I'VE CONCLUDED
HE **MUST** BE DEFEATED!
HE'S MAD FOR
**POWER... WORLD-
WIDE POWER--**

--AND HE HAS
BOTH THE **GENIUS**
AND THE
ORGANIZATION
TO **ATTAIN**
HIS GOAL!



RÄS WILL STOP AT NOTHING SHORT OF A CRIMINAL DICTATORSHIP! I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY HE ATTEMPTED TO KIDNAP YOU!

COULD BE... I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE USEFUL TO A HITLER-TYPE!



DOCTOR, WILL YOU JOIN US-- AGAINST HIM?

I CAN'T PROMISE, OFF-HAND! I'M A SCIENTIST-- NOT A MANHUNTER! --AND YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY CONVINCED ME...

GOT ANY MORE ARGUMENTS?



ONLY THIS ONE! -- IF YOU REFUSE, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A MINUTE'S PEACE AGAIN!

YOU'LL BE HOUNDED-- BY EITHER RÄS... OR ME!-- I SWEAR IT!

A TRULY IMPRESSIVE THREAT, BATMAN--



-- WHICH YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO IMPLEMENT!

YOU ARE SURPRISED TO SEE ME? BE ADVISED... MORE THAN A FIST IN THE FACE IS REQUIRED TO VANQUISH LO LING!

I WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY STUNNED TO PREVENT MY FOLLOWING YOU!



IT IS INDEED A STRANGE COINCIDENCE-- YOU DISCUSSING RÄS AL GHÜL! FOR I SERVE HIM!

IN THE STEPPES OF MY HOMELAND, HE SAVED MY LIFE! ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF MY MONGOL TRIBE I AM THEREFORE HIS SLAVE!



SWELL! YOU THINK WE'RE INTERESTED IN YOUR LIFE STORY, OR SOMETHIN'?

IT IS MERELY COURTEOUS TO EXPLAIN WHY I FIND IT NECESSARY TO ACT AS I AM ABOUT TO!

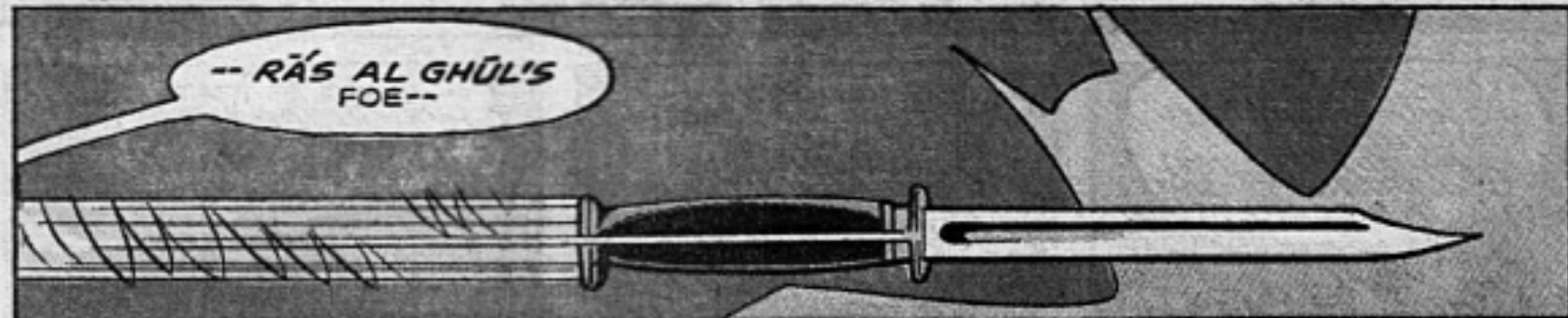
MASTER RĀS AL GHŪL
CHARGED ME TO CAPTURE
DOCTOR BLAINE--
UNLESS I HAPPENED
TO MEET THE
BATMAN!

IN SUCH AN
INSTANCE, MY GREATEST
PRIORITY IS TO
ELIMINATE THE
BATMAN-- A COMMAND
THE MASTER'S
DAUGHTER DISAGREES
WITH, BY THE WAY!

HOWEVER, I AM
NOT TALIA'S
CREATURE-- BUT
HER FATHER'S!
THUS--



-- RĀS AL GHŪL'S
FOE--

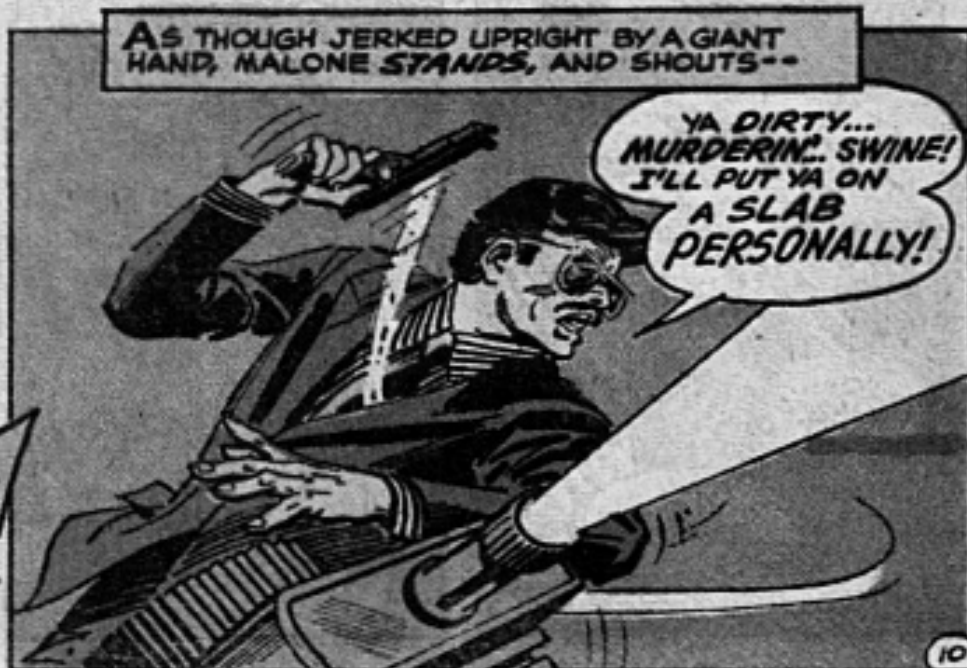


-- DIES!



AS THOUGH JERKED UPRIGHT BY A GIANT
HAND, MALONE STANDS, AND SHOUTS--

YA DIRTY...
MURDERIN' SWINE!
I'LL PUT YA ON
A SLAB
PERSONALLY!



AT THAT SAME INSTANT, THE SLIDE PROJECTOR'S BEAM HITS DOCTOR BLAINE'S EYES--

CAN'T SEE!

AND WHEN HIS VISION CLEARS...

GONE?!-- THE BATMAN'S CORPSE AND THE ORIENTAL-- VANISHED!

YEAH... I WAS BLINDED, SAME AS YOU!

YOU BEAT FEET TO THE LOBBY, DOC... MAYBE YOU CAN SPOT LING!

I... I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED!

LOOK... YOU'RE THE BIG HUMANITARIAN! YOU WANT TO HELP MANKIND? WELL, YOU CAN START BY CHASIN' A KILLER!

NOW... MOVE!

ALL RIGHT!

TIME TO RETIRE MATCHES MALONE-- THOUGH NOT AS PERMANENTLY AS THE REAL MALONE WAS RETIRED BY HIS OWN BULLET--

-- THE SLUG THAT RICOCHETED IN THE CAFE AND CAUGHT HIM IN THE HEART!

I BLINDED BLAINE **DELIBERATELY**--
SO HE **WOULDN'T** SEE LO LING
GOING AWAY FROM THE
ELEVATORS AND TOWARD
THE **ROOF!**

THE MONGOL
IS **MEAN...**
TOUGH...

...**TOO ROUGH** FOR A
MAN WHOSE **HEAVIEST**
WORK IS **HOISTING**
TEST TUBES!

THEN...

LING--!

UH--?
IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE!
I FLUNG A
BLADE INTO
YOUR **HEART!**

ALTHOUGH I AM A
MIGHTY **WARRIOR...** A
GREAT **BANDIT...** I AM
NO MATCH FOR A **GHOST!**

CAREFUL--
YOU'LL
FALL!

BUT THE BATMAN'S WARNING REACHES THE BANDIT CHIEF'S
EARS TOO LATE! HIS FOOT SLIPS ON THE SLICK TILES... HE
SLIDES...

DESPERATE FINGERS
GROPE... FIND A
GRIP ON AN
ANCIENT, RUSTING
RAINGUTTER--

WITH A SMALL, DULL
CREAK, THE GUTTER
PULLS LOOSE FROM
ITS MOORINGS...

I GO TO MY
ANCESTORS... THAT,
OR THE GODS
INTERVENE!



ABRUPTLY, THE BATMAN
TURNS AND STRIDES
QUICKLY AWAY--!



A MOMENT... TWO... AND THE
METAL TEARS COMPLETELY
FREE... LEAVING THE MONGOL
FLAILING HELPLESSLY IN
EMPTY AIR... SIX HUNDRED
FEET FROM THE PAVEMENT
BELOW!



HE PLUMMETS-- INTO
A PAIR OF CABLE-STRONG
ARMS REACHING FROM
A WINDOW DIRECTLY
BENEATH!



SORRY FOR THE SCARE,
LING! I SAW I COULDN'T
REACH YOU FROM THE
ROOF... I THOUGHT I
MIGHT MANAGE IT
FROM HERE!



YOUR RESCUE
EMBARRASSES
ME, GHOST-BAT!
FOR IT OBLIGATES
ME TO YOU-- EVEN
AS I AM OBLIGATED
TO RĀS AL GHŪL!

I'M CALLING THAT OBLIGATION,
LO LING! I'M CHARGING
YOU WITH THE TASK OF
HELPING SMASH RĀS
AND HIS DEMONS!

YOU, DOCTOR BLAINE
AND MATCHES MALONE
ARE TO MEET ME A
WEEK HENCE-- I'LL
SAY WHERE
LATER!



ALONE, THE BATMAN
ENTERS THE SUITE, HIS
MIND CHURNING...

I'VE BEGUN IT-- THE WAR
WITH **RÄS AL GHÜL!**--
THE WAR ONLY **ONE**
OF US CAN SURVIVE!

ON **HIS** SIDE, DOZENS
OF TRAINED SOLDIERS--
ASSASSINS--



--AND ON **MINE**, A
RELUCTANT SCIENTIST,
A SUPERSTITIOUS
BANDIT, AND A DEAD
GANGSTER!

THOSE...AND THIS
DUMMY I RIGGED TO
DROP INTO A TRAP-
DOOR-- A **STAND-IN**
BATMAN!



--A MANNEQUIN WITH A
RADIO RECEIVER IN ITS HEAD
TUNED TO RECEIVE SUB-
VOCALIZATIONS I TRANSMIT
FROM A TINY THROAT-MIKE!

A FEW GIMMICKS
AND THREE
MEN AGAINST
THE **ARMY...**
THE **GENIUS...**
OF **RÄS!**



IF I WERE A GAMBLER,
I'D BET ON THE
ENEMY!

KLIK!



HE'S GOT ALL THE **ODDS**,
NO DENYING IT! ME-- I'VE
GOT MY **THREE** AND MY
SILLY GADGETS...



...AND ONE THING MORE!
DETERMINATION... A
CONVICTION THAT I'M
FIGHTING FOR **RIGHT!**



YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED THE **BEGINNING...** SOON YOU ARE DESTINED TO WITNESS--The End

YOUR MIND DRAGS WITH THE
SLOWNESS OF A CLOGGED DRAIN--

YOU'VE BEEN BLUDGEONED, AND THE WAVES OF
NAUSEA AND PAIN UNDULATE WITH
BRACING SENSATION-- BUT
YOU MUST WAKE UP!



WAKE UP--

ROBIN

SCRIPT:
MIKE
FRIEDRICH

ART:
RICH
BUCKLER

INKS:
DICK
GIORDANO

-- DANGER IS S-L-I-C-I-N-G
THE AIR!

-- AND YOU ARE REACHING
YOUR ...



DEATH-POINT!



THE
CTHULHU
CULTISTS
HAVE
REVIVED!
THEY'RE ON
THE ATTACK
AGAIN!

AFTER US--
OUR VERY
LIVES!

WE MUST
REINFORCE OUR
COMBINED
MENTAL
POWERS--
ROUT THE
DEMON!

BUT TO GET TO TERRI AND LILITH, THE FANATICS MUST GET THROUGH ROBIN!...

THE CULT'S EARLIER
DEFEAT HAS
WEAKENED
THEM...

...YET THERE IS SOME-
THING **EERIE, MYSTE-**
RIOUS, STILL
LINGERING!

ALMOST AS IF TO FULFILL ROBIN'S
PORTENT OF EVIL, A CHILLING SHRIEK
GUSHES FROM THE FONT OF A WOUNDED
SOUL--

AAEEE!
THERE'S A
DEMON ON
THE LOOSE!

I CAN **FEEL** IT--
LIKE ICY FINGERS
CLUTCHING AT
MY THROAT!

TERRI!



FOR A
BRIEF
MOMENT,
SANITY
SHATTERS,
AND ITS
BITS AND
PIECES
SLOWLY
COALESCE...

...FORMING AN
INCREDIBLE
APPARITION...

I-I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
WHAT I
SEE!
THAT...
THAT
HIDEOUS
THING...
TAKING
CONTROL OF
TERRI!

-- SHE'S
BEGINNING TO
CHANGE--

WE'VE
GOT TO DO
SOMETHING,
LILITH-- FAST!
BEFORE IT'S--

--TOO LATE!

ROBIN--
LOOK AT HER
FACE--HER EYES!
THEY'VE
CHANGED!

SHE'S
POSSESSED
LOOK OUT!

HER
STRENGTH--
IT'S
UNHUMAN!

... CAN'T ...
BREAK ... HOLD ...
BLACKING OUT ...
UNNNNN...

THE WANING FIGURE OF ROBIN SLUMPS, DRAINED OF ENERGY AND WILL! THEN, EVIL-INSPIRED TERRI TURNS ON HER COUSIN...

MY ESP... NO DEFENSE AGAINST-- OHHHH!

THEY MIRROR A VOLCANO OF PSYCHIC ENERGY-- TAPPED FOR THE FIRST TIME!

THOSE DEMON EYES...

...DIRECTED AT ME WITH A SPECIAL VENGEANCE!

ABRUPTLY, THERE IS AN EERIE STILLNESS...

...FOLLOWED BY THE HUSHED SOBS THAT ECHO IN THE FOOTFALLS OF A FLEEING GIRL FEARING HER DEMON-CONTROLLED FUTURE...

...YET EVEN MORE FEARFUL OF HER DESTRUCTIVE PAST!

LATER...

YUNN! I FEEL LIKE ALL MY STRENGTH HAS LEFT ME--MAYBE IT HAS!

OWWWH! THAT LUMP TERRI GAVE ME WILL DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE MY LOOKS!

HEY, WHERE'D THEY ALL GO?

THE CULTISTS-- THEY'RE GONE! PROBABLY RAN OFF!

THEY WEREN'T REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS ANYWAY--AND BESIDES, THEY LEFT BEHIND THEIR LEADER FOR US TO GATHER UP!

TIME: THE FOLLOWING MORNING.
CHARACTERS: DICK (ROBIN)
GRAYSON AND LILITH...

I ARRIVED JUST
AFTER TERRI
CONTACTED ME
MENTALLY-- THEN
THE ACTION
STARTED! WHAT
HAPPENED
BEFORE?

TERRI
WAS
SEEKING
YOU OUT
FOR SOME
TIME...

...IT WAS
HERE THAT
SHE CLAIMED
THE "COSMIC
VIBRATIONS"
WERE RIGHT--

--AND
USED ME AS
A MENTAL
LINK TO
REACH
YOU!

THE CULT
HAD BEEN USING
THE NEARBY PUBLIC
LAND BEFORE--AND
BECAME FANATICAL
ABOUT ITS NEW
ACTIVITIES!

STUDENTS OF
HUDSON U
ARE HELPING
TO REMODEL THE
RUNDOWN PARK
TO GAIN SOME
PRACTICAL
EDUCATION!

IN THIS "ADVENTURE
PLAYGROUND" AREA,
YOUNGSTERS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO
CREATE AND
BUILD THEIR
OWN PLAY
MATERIALS!

TERRI AND I ARE
SUPERVISORS!
I'M HOPING SHE
TURNS UP HERE!

THEN,
SUDDENLY...

TERRI...
SHE WAS
THERE
ALL ALONG...
WAITING
FOR US!

NOW SHE'S GOING TO --

--ATTACK!

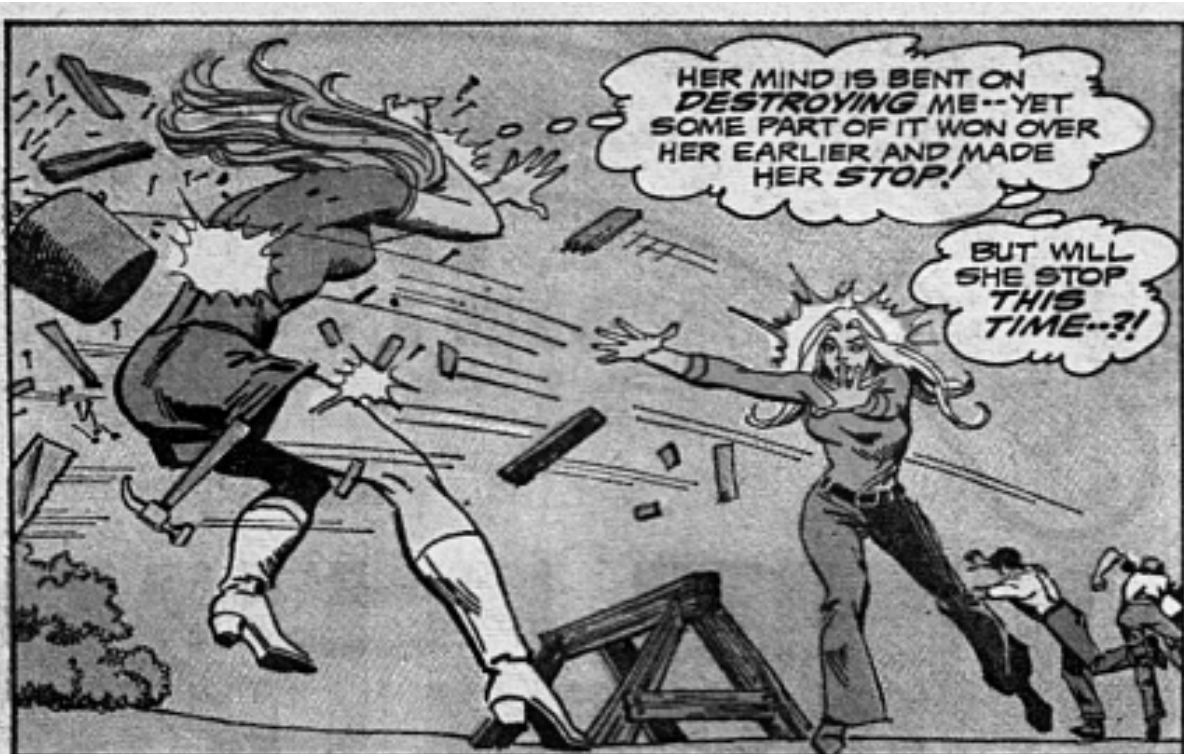
SHE'S USING
TELEKINESIS--
MIND-OVER-
MATTER!

THEN SHE'S
STILL DEMON-
POSSESSED!
BUT WHY DIDN'T
SHE FINISH
US BEFORE?

CONTINUING ON 4th PAGE FOLLOWING.



BETTER
SWITCH TO
ROBIN--
FAST!



HER MIND IS BENT ON
DESTROYING ME--YET
SOME PART OF IT WON OVER
HER EARLIER AND MADE
HER **STOP!**

BUT WILL
SHE STOP
THIS TIME--?!



ONE
LETHAL
MOMENT
LATER...

TERRI--
NO!

TERRI'S
ACTIVATED
A WOODEN
"SAW-HORSE"!
TOO **WEAK**
TO DODGE...



TRAINED REFLEXES ACT INSTANTLY, AND...

I'M
MORE
CONVINCED
THAN EVER
THERE'S
SOMETHING
PUZZLING
HERE!

PROBABLY
IN FRONT
OF MY
NOSE--BUT
I CAN'T
SEE IT!

"SEE--" I THAT'S
IT! TERRI'S
EYES-- THEY'RE
JUST LIKE
THOSE
OTHERS-- THE
CULTISTS!

IT'S BEGINNING
TO COME **CLEAR--**
JUST EXACTLY WHAT
HAPPENED TO
TERRI!



BUT,
ROBIN, THE
DEMON THAT'S
CONTROLLING
HER--

--DOES NOT REALLY EXIST! WHEN TERRI AND YOU HELPED DEFEAT THE CULTISTS, YOUR PSYCHIC ENERGY MUST HAVE CREATED A MENTAL FEEDBACK!

DEEP DOWN, SHE BLAMES US--SPECIFICALLY YOU-- FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!

IT'S UP TO YOU, LILITH! REACH THAT "DEEP-DOWN"-- NOW--

FOR AN INSTANT, LILITH HESITATES AS SHE EXPERIENCES EVERY FEAR AND TERROR THAT TERRI NOW FEELS...

SINCE TERRI WAS DRAWING MOST OF HER POWERS FROM YOU, SHE ABSORBED THE IMPACT--IN THE FORM OF THAT DEMON-THING WE SAW!

--BEFORE SHE DOES US IN WITH HER NEW FOUND POWERS!

...UNTIL SHE REACHES THE DEEP-- WITHIN OF TERRI'S MIND AND CONFRONTS THE DEMON IN ITS NAKEDNESS...

IT WORKED! HER DEMON IS EXORCISED!! APPARENTLY THERE IS A MAGNIFICATION OF TERRI'S PSYCHIC POWERS WHEN YOU TWO ARE TOGETHER!

THAT LINK MAY BE ENOUGH TO BRING IT BACK!

OH... WHAT HAPPENED?

HER MIND HAS BLOCKED OUT EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED--

BUT YOU HAD BETTER GO BEFORE--

YES-- I KNOW!

WE COUSINS MET...YET WE MUST NOW LEAVE EACH OTHER--AVOID EACH OTHER!

...LEST WE LET LOOSE THAT DEMON AGAIN!

GOOD-BYE, TERRI-- PERHAPS SOMEDAY...

SOME DAY...

END



LETTERS to the

BATMAN

tale, and I'm very anxious to read the rest of it. Oh, by the way—I've been wondering . . . is Berni in the *Robin* tale supposed to be Denny O'Neil's chum, Berni Wrightson, who helped with the idea for "Night of the Reaper"?

—GUY SHARWOOD, Fresno, Ca.

(That Bernie is right, son:—JS)



Dear Editor:

Ah, nostalgia! Nostalgia such as I haven't seen the like of in *Batman* for quite some time! I guess I bought the February issue mainly because of the Christmas cover. The "Batman in a beard" looked like something one of the artists from the '40's would have done.

And the story . . . well, how can I put it? First of all, O'Neil's basic plots have a way of being consistently shaky, while the stories themselves are very good. I guess I still kinda get a lump in my throat with endings such as this. I liked the touch in panel 4 of page 6 where *Batman* talks about fighting while the sign reads, "Peace on Earth"!

But to me, the meat of the issue was the classic reprint. I don't now, and never will have any use for a teen-age *Robin*, a yellow glob around the *Bat*-emblem, and various other "New Look" innovations, so these trips to the past are very enjoyable to me. Even though "The Loneliest Men in Town" was published before I was born, this is *THE BATMAN* I grew up with in the '50's and '60's and to me the only *REAL Batman*. The art style was great. Not meant to be realistic, but mysterious. The square-chinned *Batman*, the wide-eyed *Robin*.

Story number three, now . . . Hmmm. A teen-age *Robin* that is older than this 22 year-old. Nice to see Rich Buckler art. I used to correspond with Rich before he went pro. Congrats to him; he did a fine job. Friedrich, it would seem, knows a bit about the campus scene. The picture presented of the Jesus Freaks was almost accurate. I really can't see them fighting, though. At least not the ones we have where I go to school at the University of Texas. I think the author may have carried his characterizations a bit far there. However, the rebuttals of the non-Christians were very stock and typical. I've seen many Christians at UT get the same treatment as on pages 4 and 5. Anyway, the solo *Robin* stories fail to really turn me on, I guess, because they are so contemporary—in fact, *too* contemporary. I still see *Batman* and *Robin* as being in the '40's, and I'm stuck with that image.

All in all, a very good issue. Even with all my criticism, one of the best in a long while!

—LYNN WOOLLEY, Austin, Texas

(So far, LOCs of peace and good will. Now an "appalling" note.—JS)



Dear Editor:

As a constant fan of *Batman*, I was deeply appalled by the story "Silent Night, Deadly Night" contained in issue #239. I might add here that *Batman*'s deviation from law and common sense in this issue was a shocking example of a new permissiveness that I hope will never reappear in your pages.

Let us consider "Uncle Tim", the apparent guardian of the otherwise homeless Betsy. Our dear friend Tim is guilty of assaulting street corner Santas in order to steal money intended for charities, assaulting and attempting to kill with a broken string of Christmas bulbs a duly appointed law-enforcer *Batman*, breaking and entering into the home of Rich-

Dear Editor:

Absolutely fantastic! *Batman* #239 just has to be something special—a real Christmas present. I enjoyed the cover-logo's red-green coloring. Neal Adams' cover, artistically beautiful as usual.

The lead story, "Silent Night, Deadly Night," was very good. Denny O'Neil has done it again with the magic touch of humanity he injects into most of his work. The splendid way Denny writes, I wish we had Christmas every month!

Moving right along, we get into this issue's *Batman* reprint. And it turns out to be an extravaganza in itself! A Christmas special, as well as a Golden Ager. I see that "The Loneliest Men in the World" also contained a great deal of delightful humanity. Nothing less than a masterpiece.

Now on to my favorite segment of this issue, the *Robin* solo-story. I figured somebody at DC, after attacking drugs, overpopulation, *et al.*, would get into the Jesus movement, and you did quite a beautiful job, too. I agree with Gerry to some degree, and a little bit with *Robin*, too. As for Rick Asher, whom the *Teen Wonder* plans to help next issue, I just couldn't help but identify with him, somewhat. I, too, feel bound and gagged when confronted by a Jesus freak, or a Bible pusher, and I get very confused. I believe that the movement is fine for the people who believe in it, but trying to hook people who would rather not be bothered with it is going somewhat overboard. Maybe it's that these Jesus people have nothing else to turn to. Maybe it's a safer route than drugs. I don't know . . . I just don't know. Personally, I could not see myself getting into either. These are hard times, and every individual is in search of answers. But I don't think I could discover satisfaction in either of these.

Well, so much for my life story. You have launched what I know will be an excellent two-part

ard Lee Evans, causing the old man's near fatal heart attack, though Tim relented at the last minute upon killing him, and lastly, our hero-villain or villain-hero is guilty of contributing to the delinquency of a minor Betsy who under Tim's direction refused to untie *Batman* in order to allow him to carry out his legal responsibilities, thereby obstructing justice.

In retaliation, *Batman* hands over to the criminal a wad of bills and suggests they discuss Tim's "difficulties with the law" the following week, as dear Tim has had a change of heart and has decided to become merciful.

O.K., Tim had a change of heart, but let us illustrate the *Batman*'s error with an example from the real-life news. In 1970, a young Chicago gentleman was arrested for stabbing a young lady with a butcher knife. Now it was obvious to the judge that this individual had not really meant to commit the crime and that the entire incident occurred only because he either lived in a ghetto, was beaten in infancy by a cruel mother, or because Mayor Daley did not love him quite enough. Consequently, the judge paroled the man society had transgressed upon. November, 1971, our indigent was arrested for the murder of a 15 year-old girl found stabbed 25 times.

In essence, *Batman* has placed innocent Betsy in the grips of a man with a penchant toward murder, already illustrated by his attempt to strangle *Batman*. Who knows when our friend may next go "outta his head" and again attempt to destroy whatever individual he considers responsible for his own financial degradation? Already Betsy considered it a "sin" to disobey her uncle whether or not he is operating on moral principles. Is the girl safe living with a potential murderer? And is society safe when such a man so obviously in need of psychiatric care is allowed to walk the streets?

—C.W. CHARLES, N. Manchester, Ind.

(Compare this reader's outrage with the next one's compassion... and maybe that's what humanity is all about.—JS)



Dear Editor:

The *Batman* magazine seems to be cruising into some fine weather. First, last issue's excellent Halloween story, and now, "Silent Night, Deadly Night." These two holiday issues have been some of the best adventures *Batman* has had in quite awhile.

I must admit that holiday stories have a special attraction for me. I enjoy seeing acknowledgment of the happy spirit in the air. These seasons are only too brief a respite from the rest of the days of the year and they are to be cherished.

Denny O'Neil seems to be the only writer able to credibly bring across a battle-hardened, angry *Batman*. The *Batman* has been through more than his share of hardships, pitting his life against criminal after criminal. He is a toughened policeman who has no time for games.

Enter Tim, also an embittered man. He has been driven to commit criminal acts against his character. His frustration screams to be unleashed, which leads to violence. He is our character to sympathize with. Even *The Batman* has been guilty of the above. Tim, however, has a young dependent. Through her, we condone Tim's actions; not agree with, mind you, but condone.

It is the concept of right and wrong, on the part of *Batman* and Tim both, that gives the story its interest and the concern we feel both for Tim and Betsy and *Batman*'s mere intensity that gives the story its movement.

This tale exemplifies the importance of some character-development in comix. The personalities had color and I want to thank all involved in the story's production. It was a job well done.

—JOE RUSNAK, Montville, N.J.

Dear Editor:

"Silent Night, Deadly Night" is wonderful Christmas reading but a difficult story to evaluate. After the first reading I sat back and marveled at the high-calibre characterizations and expert use of thoughtolog of that dynamo Denny O'Neil, at the skill of I. Novick and Dick Giordano in giving the story high-grain visual impact, also at the wisdom and good common sense of the editor for not trying to sell the reader schwartz *Christmas tyme*. After this primary evaluation I had to read the story twice over before I could appraise its true value. I found the character to be outstanding: *Batman* is at his best; the no-nonsense Santa is wonderfully realistic; Uncle Tim is totally believable; Betsy is as precious as she is obedient; Richard L. Evans is as colorful as he is neglected. As for the artwork, I am intrigued by the fight scenes on pages 4 and 5. Other items I admire are the symbolism of the broken doll's head on page 13, and the correlation of the colors in the *Batman* symbol to the story material. My only complaint about the artwork is it tends to be too harshly lighted.

In judging "The Loneliest Men in the World" I feel its strength lies in its nostalgia value and the talents of Bob Kane. In addition, I feel the value of the story has not improved with age.

The *Robin* story, "Soul-Pit," has a strong, well-constructed script. The high points are the author's handling of Gerry and the missionary on page 3 and the way he shows how fanatical people of the cloth can become (page 4, panel 5). The only weakness of the story is the unoriginal approach in the style of the artwork; although each of the characters is well drawn, the story has a low-budget look.

Finally, due to the recent advances in your company's TOP FIVE to Ten Titles I have come to the conclusion that we are now in the Platinum Age of Comix (of course, one can still find traces of Iron, Nickel, and Osmium).

—WILLIAM G. LAKS, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

"Silent Night, Deadly Night" affects me strangely. On the one hand, the artwork and story were superb. On the other hand, we've seen too many of these "hand of providence" stories with *Batman* in the last few years. But let's keep this one and mark one of the others as being excessive. I like this one too much. It's this type of work that makes me upset when this same team—mainly, O'Neil, Novick, Giordano, and Schwartz—lets an inferior piece of work go to press because of deadline. *C'est la guerre!*

—BOB ABRAHAM, Rego Park, N.Y.



Dear Editor:

As did "The Silent Night of The Batman" of two years ago, "Silent Night, Deadly Night" was one good story, likely to receive unanimous approval. I was going to go into a lengthy essay telling why, but perhaps in a story like this one, it would be best to leave it at that. And I can't think of any new adjectives—they've all been said.

—JEFF RISTINE, Ann Arbor, Mich.



Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

DIRECT CURRENTS

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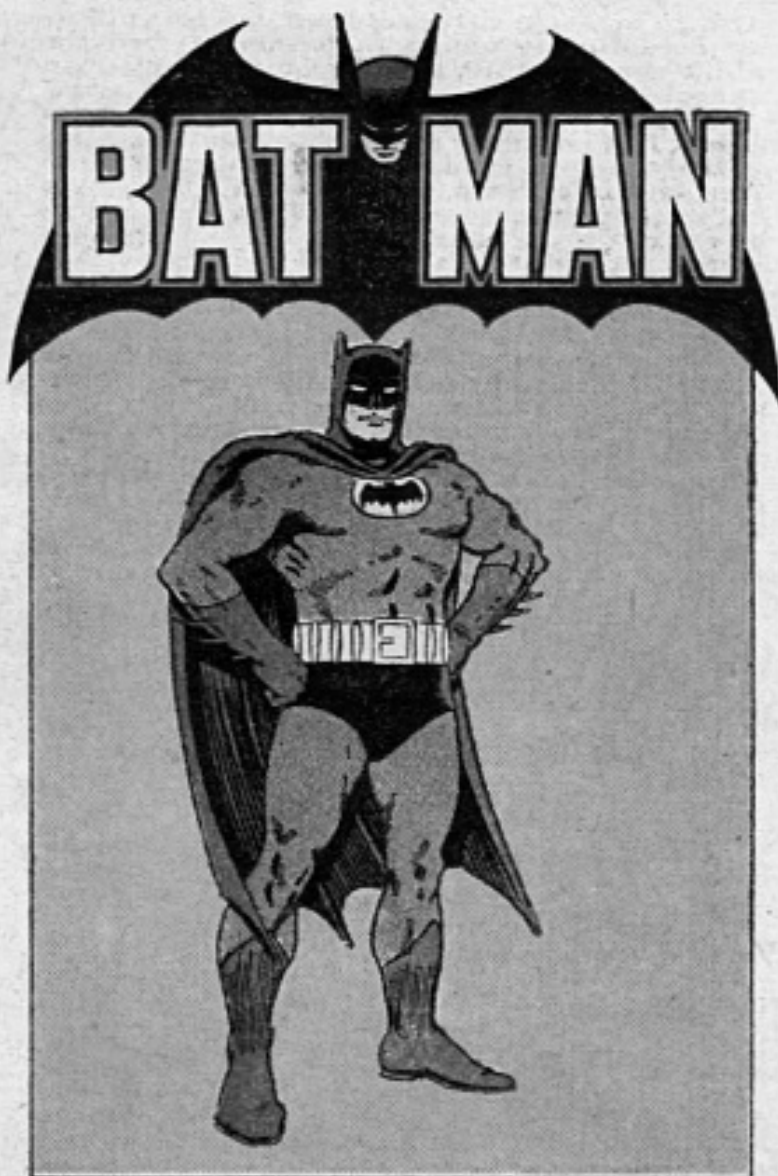
Inside a prison, at the mercy of criminals, **SUPER-BOY** winds up in "An Iron Cage for a Hero!" That's the lead story in the **June** issue (#187)—but it's not all! There's a tale that brings "The Return of Superbaby's Pal"—Gary, the little witch-boy! Is that enough? No? Then how about a Dial "H" for Hero adventure of **Robby Reed**? If you don't know about **Robby**, who never knows what hero he'll be next, meet him in "The Monster-Maker of Littleville!" On sale **April 25**.

Here comes the historic moment you've waited for—the meeting between **TARZAN OF THE APES** and lovely **Jane Porter**! It's called "A Mate for the Ape-Man!" In it you'll learn how the **Jungle Lord** first comes into contact with civilized men—as adapted from Edgar Rice Burroughs' **Tarzan of the Apes** by Editor-Artist Joe Kubert. There's a text story from the early **Tarzan** Sunday pages, illoed by the great Hal Foster! And, of course, **John Carter of Mars**! It's #209 (June), on sale **April 27**!



SUPERGIRL

The **Batman** proves once again why he's called the **World's Greatest DETECTIVE**, in the **June** issue (#424), when he tackles a baffling case of "Double-Cross-Fire!" In the same issue is "Batgirl's Last Case!" What? The **Dominoed Dare-Doll** singing her swan song? Maybe—maybe not! There's a **Sierra Smith** mystery—"The Case of the Teetering Tower!" Finally, a **Detective Classic**—"The Cop Who Shot 1,000 Crooks"—with a camera, we might add! It's on sale **April 27**.



Can magic destroy the mighty **Man of Steel**? Read the **June ACTION** (#413) and witness "The Voodoo Doom of Superman!" Then, having read that terrific tid-bit, turn to the new **Metamorpho** tale—"The Seven Sins of Simon Stagg!" This new series on the **Element Man** is being acclaimed by all who've seen it! And there's a classic tale of **Eclipso**, the man who is both hero and villain! It's called "The Man Who Destroyed Eclipso!" On sale **April 27**.

Supergirl comes up against a strange group of wizards in a tale of alien evil called "And Death Shall Have No Dominion," in the **June ADVENTURE** (#420). There's also a classic adventure in which the **Maid of Might** tackles a "Monster from Krypton"—not knowing it's really a transformed **Superman**! Then you can join a "Rodeo" with **The Vigilante**; but watch out for a guy with a rifle, determined that the show will **not** go on! There's a **Zatanna** adventure, too! On sale **April 27**.

DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH...

BATMAN

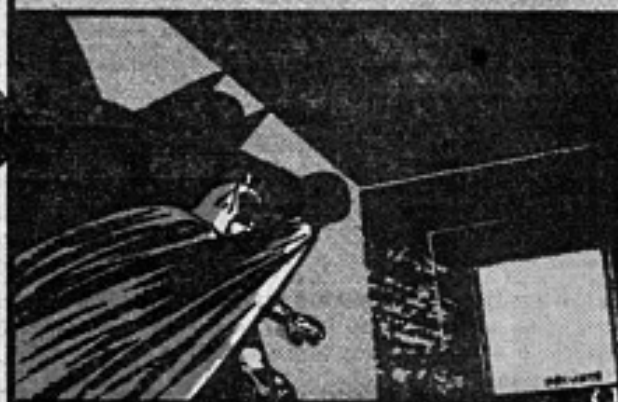
and
ROBIN

COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST HAD THE BATMAN RESCUED INNOCENT HUMANS FROM DEATH OR IMPRISONMENT BY UNEARTHING TRUE EVIDENCE THAT TRAPPED THE REAL CRIMINAL. BUT WHO IS THERE TO SAVE THE BATMAN HIMSELF FROM SUCH A PREDICAMENT? FOR NOW, THE BATMAN FACES THE SUPREME TEST OF HIS CAREER! HELPLESS, BOUND IN A CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, HE MUST SOMEHOW ENTANGLE THE REAL CRIMINAL IN LINKS OF HIS OWN MAKING! HOW HE DOES SO WITH THE TIMELY AID OF ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, MAKES AN ABSORBING STORY WHEN WE READ OF "THE PEOPLE VS. THE BATMAN."

BOB
KANE

PRESENTING
A MILESTONE
IN THE CAREER
OF THE
CAPED CRIME-
FIGHTER--
ORIGINALLY
PUBLISHED IN
BATMAN #7;
OCT.-NOV., 1941.

A CLOAKED FIGURE PADS SILENTLY THRU A DARK CORRIDOR. AHEAD, A PATCH OF LIGHT DRAWS THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE LIKE A FLAME DRAWS A MOTH--





A BATMAN CLASSIC



LISTEN,
HORATIO
ABOUT THAT
POULTRY
RACKET
JOB--

YOU
GOTTA
GET---
HOLD IT,
SOMEONE'S
OUTSIDE!

OH, HELLO!
I WAS JUST
WAITING FOR
A STREET
CAR?

AWK?
IT'S THE
BATMAN?

WITH
STARTLING
SUDDENNESS!
THE MANTLED
INTRUDER
SWEEPS
FORWARD!

I ALWAYS
BELIEVE IN
THE ELEMENT
OF SURPRISE TO
STEAL A
MARCH ON
YOUR
OPPONENT!

SEE
WHAT
I MEAN?

NOW...I
THINK WE
OUGHT TO
HAVE A
LITTLE TALK!



A BATMAN CLASSIC



BUT AS THE BATMAN TALKS, A THUG'S FURTIVE HAND REACHES FOR THE LIGHT SWITCH---



AND THE LIGHTS WINK OUT?

OKAY, NOW'S OUR CHANCE: SLUG HIM!

BANG BANG

LET'S SCRAM!

POLICE ARE DRAWN BY THE GUNFIRE... BUT FIND ONLY THE DAZED BATMAN MAKING A BID FOR FREEDOM---

THE BATMAN?

STOP! STOP!

SORRY, I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS!

THE ACROBATIC BATMAN DROPS TO SAFETY?

THERE HE GOES!

I WISH I KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING HERE?

BECAUSE OF THIS VISIT, THE ENTIRE PHASE OF THE BATMAN'S LIFE IS TO BE AFFECTED?

AND FROM A NEARBY HALLWAY--

THEY'RE GONE NOW?

YEAH... BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE BATMAN IS WISE TO YOU?

LATER...THE HOME OF FREDDIE HILL...

I TELL YA, THE BATMAN'S WISE TO THE FACT THAT DELMAR IS REALLY HEAD OF THE RACKETS IN THIS WARD? SUPPOSE HE MAKES DELMAR TALK--THEN WHAT?

WE GOTTA GET RID OF DELMAR BEFORE THAT HAPPENS. I THINK IT'S TIME I RAN THIS MOB MYSELF-- WEASEL, HERE, IS GONNA BUMP OFF DELMAR--

BUT THE COPS WILL PICK ME UP SURE?

NOT THE WAY I FIGURE IT CAUSE WE'RE GONNA GET SOMEONE TO TAKE THE RAP FOR YA? NOW LISTEN-- YOU GO TO DELMAR'S OFFICE AND WAIT-- WAIT FOR A CLIENT--ANY CLIENT TO SHOW UP-- AND THEN YOU--

AT THAT INSTANT...

WHAT'S UP?

I REALLY DISCOVERED SOMETHING BIG-- THINK I'LL INVESTIGATE TOMORROW AS BRUCE WAYNE. HE WOULDN'T AROUSE ANY SUSPICION?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING



A BATMAN CLASSIC



THE NEXT MORNING---



WITH A CRY, WEASEL HOLDS THE GUN UP AND FIRES A SHOT THROUGH HIS OWN HAT!



THEN THE MURDERER TOSSES THE SMOKING GUN TO BRUCE--



INSTINCTIVELY, BRUCE CATCHES THE WEAPON, AS ALL PERSONS WILL DO WHEN OBJECTS ARE TOSSED AT THEM?





A BATMAN CLASSIC





A BATMAN CLASSIC





A BATMAN CLASSIC

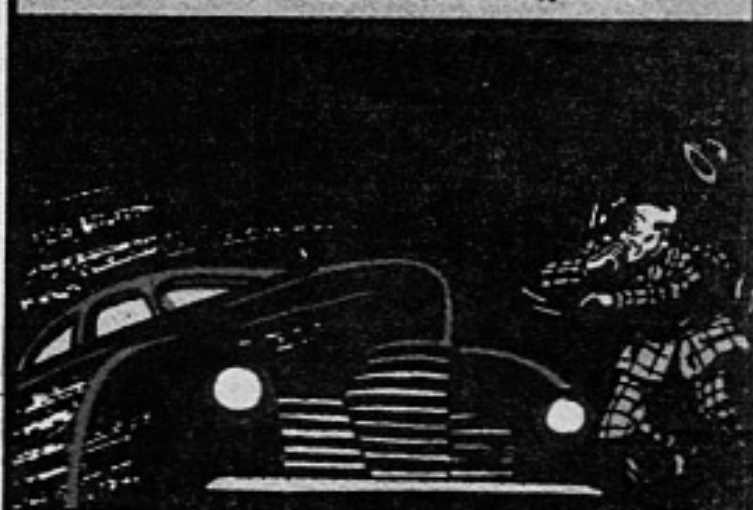


THERE HE GOES! I'LL--

PUT THAT ROD AWAY? I GOT A BETTER IDEA! GET IN THAT CAR!



AS THE TERRIFIED WEASEL VENNER RACES ACROSS THE GUTTER, HE TURNS A FEAR-STRICKEN FACE UPON A HEAVY CAR THAT BEARS DOWN ON HIM!



.... THE CAR LEADS AWAY IN THE NIGHT, LEAVING BEHIND A SPRAWLED, TWISTED FIGURE.

IT WAS A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER! I SAW IT!

EEE-- THAT MAN'S BEEN KILLED!



BUT WEASEL IS NOT DEAD---AT LEAST NOT QUITE!

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY DAYS HE'LL BE LIKE THIS! HE'S IN A COMA!

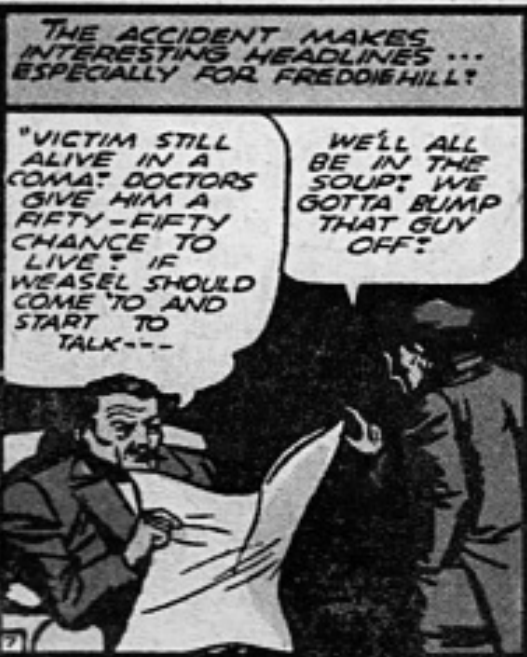
I'LL HAVE TO PUT A POLICE GUARD ABOUT THE ROOM! THIS MAN IS AN IMPORTANT WITNESS IN A MURDER TRIAL!



THE ACCIDENT MAKES INTERESTING HEADLINES... ESPECIALLY FOR FREDDIE HILL!

"VICTIM STILL ALIVE IN A COMA! DOCTORS GIVE HIM A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE TO LIVE! IF WEASEL SHOULD COME TO AND START TO TALK---

WE'LL ALL BE IN THE SOUP! WE GOTTA BUMP THAT GUY OFF!



MAYBE THIS ROBIN KID WILL GO TO THE COPPER AND TELL HOW WE WERE TRYING TO TAKE WEASEL FOR A RIDE!

NOT YET? REMEMBER THAT NIGHT THE COPS SAW THE BATMAN IN DELMAR'S OFFICE? I THINK I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO USE THAT!



THAT NIGHT--

IT WAS A CINCH TO GET THIS OUTFIT! EVER SINCE THE BATMAN STARTED, COSTUME SHOPS GET CALLS FOR 'EM FROM PEOPLE GOIN' TO FANCY MASQUERADE BALLS.

YOU'LL GET BY NOW-- TRY TO PLUS WEASEL-- WHEN THE COPS SEE YOU-- THEY'LL BE SURE THE BATMAN IS ON THIS--



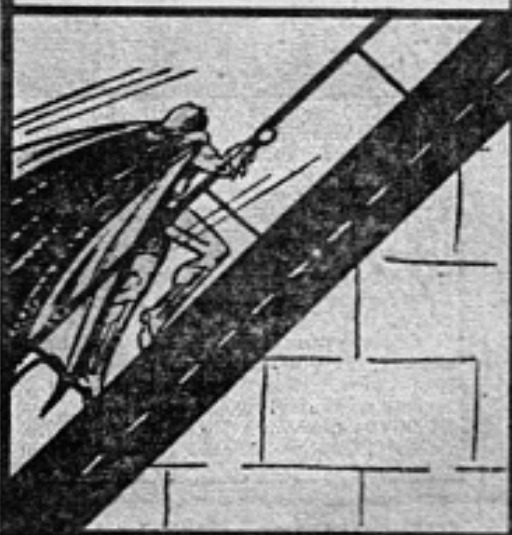
WOULD THEY BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW WHAT WE KNOW-- THAT BRUCE WAYNE AND THE BATMAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME.



A BATMAN CLASSIC



A BATSHAPED FIGURE MOVES UP THE FIRE ESCAPE OUTSIDE A HOSPITAL--



HE SWINGS INTO A LIGHTED ROOM, A HAND CLUTCHING A REVOLVER--WHEN A NURSE ACCIDENTALLY ENTERS--



EEE--
HELP!
POLICE?

WHO-?

POLICE STATIONED OUTSIDE POUR INTO THE ROOM--



THERE HE GOES!
IT'S THE BATMAN!

HE TRIED
TO KILL
VENNER!

SOMETIME LATER--

NOT ME--
I'M NOT
GOING BACK--
THE PLACE
IS ALIVE
WITH COPPERS.

TAKE IT EASY!
JUST GOT A WORD OVER
THE RADIO THAT
WEASEL AIN'T GONNA
LIVE ANYWAY-- ONE
THING THOUGH, WE
FIXED IT SO THE BATMAN
LOOKS GUILTY OF TRYING
TO KILL A WITNESS---



AND HILL IS RIGHT--

HERE
Y'ARE
READ
ALL ABOUT
IT?

THE BATMAN
TRIED TO
KILL THE
WAYNE MURDER
WITNESS?
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT?

THAT CAN'T BE
THE REAL BATMAN--
HE'S IN JAIL--I'VE
GOT SOMETHING
TO DO--AND
DO IT TONIGHT!



DICK SPENDS THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY IN THE LIBRARY LOOKING OVER OLD MAPS OF THE CITY--

THAT
SHOULD
DO IT
VERY
NICELY---



BRUCE WAYNE PACES HIS CELL WITH THE RESTLESSNESS OF A CAGED ANIMAL, WHEN--

I'VE GOT TO
PROVE I'M
INNOCENT--
WHAT'S THAT
NOISE THERE?



SUDDENLY, A STONE IN THE FLOOR BEGINS TO MOVE--

THE STONE ...
SLIDING
OUT....



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



A BATMAN CLASSIC





A BATMAN CLASSIC





A BATMAN CLASSIC



LATER--ON A DESERTED PIER-- WITH IRON TIED TO THEIR FEET, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THROWN TOWARD SWIRLING WATERS?



DOWN--DOWN--SINK THE WEIGHTED BODIES, DOWN TO THE RIVER BED--



--WHERE DEATH WAITS TO DRIVE THE BREATH FROM THEIR BURSTING LUNGS?

WEASEL HAS JUST COME OUT OF THE COMA, AS HIS NURSE RACES TO CALL THE DOCTOR?



OH, YEAH--? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT-- I'M GONNA DIE ANYWAY-- BUT I'LL SHOW HILL WHAT IT MEANS TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME-- I GOTTA GET AWAY?



AND WHEN THE NURSE RETURNS, SHE FINDS WEASEL IS--



AND TWO POLICE GUARDS, WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO FETCH BRUCE WAYNE TO TRIAL, RACE BACK TO INFORM THE ASTOUNDED COURT THAT HE, TOO, IS--



"FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE"-- TRUE WORDS? FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, BRUCE WAYNE, THE BATMAN, FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER?



DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN RAKES HIS BONDS, BACK AND FORTH, ON THE ROUGH EDGE----- WILL HE FREE HIMSELF IN TIME?





A BATMAN CLASSIC



--BUT HE MAKES IT! AND NOW HIS BUSY FINGERS CLAW FEVERISHLY AT ROBIN'S BONDS

HOLD IT JUST A MOMENT MORE!

THAT'S THAT! NO RECORDS-- NO BATMAN, NO ROBIN, TO PUT THE FINGER ON ME!

NOT A FINGER-- BUT THE WHOLE FIST!

THE BATMAN?

NOW LET'S FINISH THEM, ROBIN!

IT'S A PLEASURE!

I SAY THAT BRUCE WAYNE PROVED HIS GUILT BY BREAKING JAIL AND--

BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT GUILTY! HERE'S THE MAN WHO CAN TELL YOU WHO KILLED HORATIO DELMAR--HIS GANG CHIEF!

BUT THE WILY HILL KNOWS THE RECORDS ARE BURNED AND--

HE'S LYING! HE BEAT ME UP TO TAKE THE RAP FOR BRUCE WAYNE! ASK HIM WHY HE TRIED TO KILL VENNER IN THE HOSPITAL!

YES! THE POLICE SAW YOU THERE WITH A GUN IN YOUR HAND!

IT'S EASY FOR ANYBODY TO PUT ON A BATMAN COSTUME AND THROW SUSPICION ON ME!

YES-- AND JUST AS EASY FOR YOU TO SLANDER A DEAD MAN'S NAME, BECAUSE HE CANNOT DEFEND HIMSELF! BATMAN, I ACCUSE YOU OF AIDING AND ABETTING BRUCE WAYNE TO ESCAPE JAIL --AND ATTEMPTING TO MURDER A COURT WITNESS-- AND OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE WITH YOUR INFERNAL MEDDLING AND YOUR ABSURD CRIME THEORIES! POLICE, ARREST THIS MAN!

WAIT!

COMMISSIONER GORDON APPEALS TO THE JURY--

I SPEAK FOR THE BATMAN-- THE FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE! YES-- HE WORKS "OUTSIDE THE LAW" AS YOU CALL IT, BUT THE LEGAL DEVICES THAT HAMPER US ARE HURDLED BY THIS CRIME-FIGHTER SO HE MAY BRING THESE MEN OF EVIL TO JUSTICE-- THE EMINENT DISTRICT ATTORNEY CALLS HIM A MEDDLER WITH A THEORY--



A BATMAN CLASSIC



WASHINGTON, THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, LINCOLN, EDISON AND OTHERS, THEY WERE "MEDDLERS" TOO -- WHO PROVED THEIR THEORIES. THEY MADE SACRIFICES SO THAT WE MIGHT ENJOY THE SECURITY AND COMFORT WE DO. THE BATMAN HAS DONE THAT, TOO?



THIS MAN WHO HAS SAVED A NATION'S GOLD RESERVE, FOUGHT FIFTH COLUMNISTS AND SABOTEURS, BEATEN THE JOKER, THE PUPPET MASTER, AND OTHER CRIME GENIUSES...



THIS MAN WHO DAILY RISKS HIS LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS... WHO NEVER CARRIES A GUN... WHO BAID BY HIS YOUNG FRIEND, ROBIN, FIGHTS CRIME WITH THE COURAGE AND ZEAL BORN OF LOVE FOR HIS FELLOW MAN THIS IS ---- THE BATMAN?



PERHAPS THIS COMES A LITTLE LATE, BUT I, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER OF GOTHAM CITY, APPOINT YOU AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT? FROM NOW ON, YOU WORK HAND IN HAND WITH THE POLICE?

THANK YOU, SIR? I WISH NOW THAT I COULD FIND THE PROOF THAT WILL PROVE BRUCE WAYNE'S INNOCENCE?



THUS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE BATMAN BECAME AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF GOTHAM'S POLICE FORCE!

THEN A VOICE CUTS IN--

SURE, HE'S INNOCENT? I KILLED DELMART UNDER ORDERS FROM HILL?



WHY, YOU SQUEALING RAT... I'LL KILL YA?

YOU'RE TOO LATE--HILL.... I'M DYING NOW, BUT AT LEAST I'M EVEN--- YOU----



LATER---

THE BATMAN HELPED ME ESCAPE-- HE KEPT ME IN A HIDEOUT UNTIL I WAS CLEARED?

YES, I KNOW, HE TOLD ME ABOUT IT JUST BEFORE HE AND ROBIN LEFT? YOU OWE HIM YOUR LIFE?



YOU'RE RIGHT? I GUESS THE LIFE OF BRUCE WAYNE DOES DEPEND QUITE A BIT ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE BATMAN?



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 27TH

END